

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY: NASA/I:JVZIMMERMAN

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TO AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: TSPA:

SUBJ: EARTH RESOURCES TECHNOLOGY SATELLITE (ERTS) GROUND STATION
AGREEMENT

FOR SCIATT

REF: A. FBIS LONDON 291641Z OCT. 74 QUOTED AT PARA 3

B. AMEMBASSY TEHRAN 9137

1. REF A. REPORTS INACCURATE AND POTENTIALLY CONFUSING
IRANIAN DOMESTIC RADIO BROADCAST ON ERTS GROUND STATION
AGREEMENT BETWEEN NASA AND IRAN'S PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANI-
ZATION DISCUSSED REF. B. AS EMBASSY AWARE:

A. NASA DOES NOT PROVIDE QUOTE EXCLUSIVE UNQUOTE ACCESS BY
IRAN TO EARTH RESOURCES SATELLITES.

B. IRAN IS NOT ONLY NATION TO AGREE TO SUCH A STATION
(CANADA, BRAZIL AND ITALY PRECEDE IRAN.)

C. WHILE ACCESS IS INITIALLY QUOTE FREE UNQUOTE, AGREEMENT
RESERVES TO NASA THE OPTION TO CHARGE AN ACCESS FEE AFTER
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ONE YEAR OF ERTS-B OPERATION.

D. SATELLITE IS OF COURSE CHARACTERIZED AS AN EARTH RESOURCES RATHER THAN A COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITE.

2. IN VIEW PRESENT AND FUTURE PUBLICITY OF IRANIAN DECISION TO ESTABLISH ERTS FACILITIES REQUEST EMBASSY ASSURE NO MISUNDERSTANDING EXISTS IN PLAN AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION ON POINTS PARA. ONE ABOVE.

3. TEXT QUOTE: DOCUMENTS RELATED TO THE EXCLUSIVE USE BY IRAN OF COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES TO SURVEY THE COUNTRY'S SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND RESOURCES WERE SIGNED BETWEEN IRAN AND THE US NATIONAL AERONAUTICS AND SPACE ADMINISTRATION (NASA) IN TEHERAN TODAY. IN ADDITION, A SATELLITE-TRACKING STATION WILL BE SET UP IN IRAN TO PLACE AT IRAN'S EXCLUSIVE DISPOSAL ALL INFORMATION GATHERED BY COMMUNICATIONS SATELLITES ON IRAN'S SURFACE AND UNDERGROUND RESOURCES. THE AGREEMENT REGARDING THE SATELLITE-TRACKING STATION WAS SIGNED BY THE MINISTER OF STATE AND MANAGING DIRECTOR OF THE PLANS AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION, MR. MAJIDI, ON BEHALF OF IRAN, AND BY THE US AMBASSADOR TO THE IMPERIAL COURT, MR. RICHARD HELMS, ON BEHALF OF NASA. PARAGRAPH. AN INFORMED SOURCE AT THE PLANS AND BUDGET ORGANIZATION HAS SAID THAT THESE SATELLITES ARE ABLE TO TAKE PHOTOGRAPHS FROM A DISTANCE OF 2,000 REPEAT 2,000 KILOMETERS AND TO TRANSMIT TO GROUND STATIONS ALL GEOLOGICAL INFORMATION AND CHANGES TAKING PLACE ON THE GROUND, SUCH AS FLOODS AND RAIN. PARAGRAPH. UNDER THE AGREEMENT SIGNED TODAY, NASA UNDERTAKES TO PLACE AT IRAN'S DISPOSAL, FREE OF CHARGE, ALL INFORMATION COLLECTED BY RC-1 REPEAT RC-1 DURING ITS LIFESPAN OR BY ANOTHER SIMILAR SATELLITE. THE SAME SOURCE SAID THAT AT PRESENT IRAN IS THE ONLY COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE UNITED STATES TO BE EQUIPPED WITH SUCH A SYSTEM. END QUOTE. INGERSOLL

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